Time overrun projects	Cost overrun projects

16. Belpahar Opencast (MCL)
17. Goleti Longwall (SCCL)
18. Vakilapalli Block-A UG (SCCL)

ECL— Eastern Coalfields Limited

BCCL— Bharat Coking Coal Limited

CCL— Central Coalfields Limited

NCL— Northern Coalfields Limited

WCL— Western Coalfields Limited

SECL— South Eastern Coalfields Limited

MCL— Mhhanadi Coalfields Limited

SCCL— Singareni Collieries Co. Limited

Extraction of coal from deeper seams

7591. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister be pleased to state:

(b) whether extraction of coal from deeper seams has been undertaken;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the details of the plans for extraction of such coal in future;

(e) whether as of now or in future, such extraction from deeper seams will be economical;

(f) if so, to what extent; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) About 30 per cent of coal production of Coal India Limited (CIL) is obtained from underground mines and in case of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), about 60 per cent of production comes from underground mines.

(d) With the depletion of the shallow coal reserves, depth of mining will gradually increase both in opencast as well as under ground mines. Planning for extraction of deeper seams is linked to complete extraction of upper seams. Keeping in view the geological as well as techno-economic factors, more underground mines for extraction of deeper reserves had been identified both in CIL and SCCL.

(e) to (g) Cost of extraction of coal in deeper seams is bound to be higher compared to that of shallow deposits. The actual cost of mining *inter alia* depends upon thickness and depth of seams, nature of roof and floor rocks, geomining conditions including presence of gas and water, the extent of mechanisation and the method of mining.